United Nations A/59/443

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 October 2004
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 28
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 19 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the declaration of the Cuban non-governmental organizations participating in the second Forum against the Embargo, held on 15 October 2004 in Havana.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 28, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

(*Signed*) Orlando **Requeijo Gual**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-56319 (E) 221004 251004

Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Cuban Non-Governmental Organizations participating in the second Forum against the Embargo

On 28 October 2004 the General Assembly of the United Nations will again discuss and vote on the draft resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". We all recall, with infinite satisfaction, the nearly unanimous support of the international community for the draft resolution on the item submitted by our country in 2003, calling for an end to the application of extraterritorial laws and measures which contravene universally recognized principles of international law.

As a follow-up to the first Forum against the Embargo, held in October 2003, we, the representatives of Cuban non-governmental organizations, are meeting to demand the immediate and total abolition by the Government of the United States of America of the laws and regulations which support the application of this genocidal policy against Cuba.

The participants meeting in the second Forum against the Embargo have agreed to make the following declaration:

1. The policy of imposing an embargo against Cuba has its origin in the expansionist designs of the United States of America, reflected in our case in the historic desire to annex or dominate Cuba, which has been regarded as government policy by successive United States administrations. The United States intervention in the Spanish-Cuban war in the late nineteenth century cut short the aspirations of the Cuban people, forged through 30 years of hard struggle, for independence and freedom. In 1902 we were granted formal independence. The imposition of the Platt Amendment conferred on the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs; despite its repeal, Cuba experienced over half a century of interference and full neocolonial control by the United States over its national life.

2. Since the revolutionary victory, 10 United States administrations have applied, expanded and strengthened the most prolonged economic, commercial and financial embargo in history. Its design and implementation reflect the aim of converting a free and sovereign Cuba into one that would be dependent on and subordinate to the United States. The Cuban people have resisted every kind of assault on their physical and spiritual integrity. They have had to bear this heavy burden in order to support their aspiration for independence and freedom.

3. The fundamental aim of the embargo policy has been and is to defeat the Cuban revolution and the example it sets for the world, to abolish its undeniable and exemplary social and economic gains, in an attempt to erase from the world's consciousness any hope that a different and better world is possible.

4. The embargo is an illegal act which violates important principles of international law and qualifies as an international crime of genocide, in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, of 9 December 1948. Several international legal instruments condemn such acts as contrary to the peace and security of humanity.

5. The embargo is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of the Cuban people and has a negative impact on the quality of life of our citizens. Its application, expansion and renewal violate the human rights of all Cubans.

6. The losses to the Cuban economy during the years of the embargo are estimated at $79.325 billion. The true magnitude of the human and moral injury inflicted on our people is incalculable. Nevertheless, we wish to reaffirm our deepest conviction that the embargo is doomed to total failure. The moral values created by the Cuban revolution have defeated the arrogance and strength of the empire. Day by day, the Cuban people accomplish a heroic deed: resisting, under glaringly unequal conditions, the tightest embargo ever imposed and maintained for over 40 years.

7. The embargo prevents Cuba from developing normal economic, commercial, financial, scientific and technical, and cultural ties with the international community — including United States citizens, professionals and businesspeople — in an effort to bring about our country's isolation and surrender by force, hunger and disease. We assert the right to maintain mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical, and cultural relations without interference, pursuant to internationally recognized norms.

8. The information embargo has sought to conceal the truth about Cuba from the world by fostering a distorted image of our reality and ignoring the great successes achieved by our people in a vain attempt to mar the example of the Revolution and demobilize progressive sectors that defend our ideas of justice and dignity.

9. Cuba poses no threat to the security of the United States. No credible argument can be made to support such a charge. We, however, have been victims of systematic acts of harassment and State terrorism contrary to all ethical and legal principles. The United States Government has been held responsible by Cuban and international courts for illegal acts against our people.

10. We defend the sovereign right of our people to govern themselves in accordance with the social and political system which we have chosen of our own accord and which has been reaffirmed on numerous occasions. Our model of popular participation is an example of genuine democracy adapted to our specific circumstances.

11. We recognize the tremendous efforts being made by our revolutionary Government to maintain and enhance the social gains that distinguish us, in spite of the difficulties our country is facing amid markedly adverse economic conditions, particularly for third world countries. We, the participants in the Forum, reaffirm our full support for the actions undertaken by the revolutionary Government to defeat the attempts to thwart our right to build a better life.

12. We reject and condemn the new measures contained in the report of the so-called Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, endorsed with great fanfare on 6 May 2004 by United States President George W. Bush, which not only tighten the restrictions imposed by the embargo but constitute a detailed programme for recolonization of our country by attacking the very foundations of the existence of the Cuban nation. Neither these nor other, even crueller, decisions will end our

unwavering support for the revolutionary social project which we have freely chosen.

13. We extend our deepest gratitude to the growing international movement which rejects the escalation of aggression by the United States Government against Cuba, even within the United States; to the intellectuals, parliamentarians, representatives of NGOs, fighters for social justice and all who defend the right of the Cuban nation to exist in the face of pressures and blackmail of every kind.

14. We call upon global civil society to repudiate the embargo and the hostile policy of the United States towards Cuba, and urge the Member States of the United Nations to vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by our country, calling for the immediate cessation of the genocidal embargo which violates international law and affects other countries in the world community.

15. We, the representatives of Cuban non-governmental organizations, declare our unconditional loyalty to our homeland, to socialism and to Fidel. We reaffirm our identification with the goals of the Revolution and its destiny, which are the same as ours.

Havana, 15 October 2004

Cuban non-governmental organizations participating in the second Forum against the Embargo

14-15 October 2004

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
1. Agrupación de Sociedades Castellanas	
2. Asociación Canaria de Cuba	
3. Asociación Caribeña de Cuba	
4. Asociación Cubana de Esperanto	
5. Asociación Cubana de Gatos	
6. Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas	
7. Asociación Cubana de Limitados Físico Motores	
8. Asociación Cubana de Lucha	
9. Asociación Cubana de Producción Animal	
10. Asociación de Artes Marciales	
11. Asociación de Artesanos Artistas de Cuba	
12. Asociación de Bibliotecarios de Cuba	
13. Asociación de la Ciencia y la Tecnología de los Alimentos de Cuba	
14. Asociación de Jubilados de Suchel	
15. Asociación de Lingüistas de Cuba	
16. Asociación de Pedagogos de Cuba	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
17. Asociación de Percusionistas de Cuba	
18. Asociación de Radioaficionados	
19. Asociación de Técnicos Agropecuarios y Forestales	
20. Asociación de Técnicos Azucareros	
21. Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños	
22. Asociación Nacional de Animales y Plantas	
23. Asociación Nacional de Economistas y Contadores	
24. Asociación Nacional de Sordos y Ciegos	
25. Asociación Ornitológica de Cuba	
26. AUNA	
27. Asociación Vitofílica	
28. Casino Cheng Wah	
29. Central de Trabajadores de Cuba	
30. Centro Andaluz de la Habana	
31. Centro Balear	
32. Centro de Estudios de Europa	
33. Centro de Estudios de la Juventud	
34. Centro de Investigaciones de la Economía Mundial	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
35. Centro Félix Varela	
36. Centro Juan O. Arnulfo Romero	
37. Centro Memorial "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."	
38. Club Boxer de Cuba	
39. Comité de Defensa de la Revolución	
40. Comunidad Hebrea	
41. Consejo Científico Veterinario	
42. Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba	
43. Centro de Investigaciones de Trabajo Comunitario (CIERIC)	
44. Consejo Mundial de Iglesias	
45. Consejo Supremo Nacional de Espiritismo	
46. CUBA SOLAR	
47. Ejercito de Salvación	
48. Federación Cinológica de Cuba	
49. Federación Colombófila de Cuba	
50. Federación Cubana de Caza Deportiva	
51. Federación Cubana de Deporte Canino	
52. Federación Cubana de Pesca Deportiva	
53. Federación Culinaria de la Republica de Cuba	

!! FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
54. Federación Cubana de Esgrima	
55. Federación de Estudiantes de la Enseñanza Media	
56. Federación de Mujeres Cubanas	
57. Federación de Sociedades Gallegas de Cuba	
58. Federación Filatélica Cubana	
59. Federación Estudiantil Universitaria	
60. Federación Yoruba de Cuba	
61. Filial Cubana de la Internacional de Médicos para la Guerra Nuclear	
62. Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas	
63. Fundación Antonio Nuñez Jiménez	
64. Fundación Caguayo	
65. Fundación del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano	
66. Fundación Fernando Ortiz	
67. Fundación Nicolás Guillen	
68. Gran Logia Masónica de Cuba	
69. Iglesia Cristiana Pentecostal	
70. Iglesia Cristiana Reformada	
71. Iglesia de Dios Ortodoxa	
72. Iglesia de Nazareno	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
73. Iglesia Episcopal	
74. Iglesia Evangélica Libre	
75. Iglesia Los Amigos	
76. Iglesia Misionera de Dios	
77. Min Chih Tang	
78. Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos	
79. Movimiento Nacional de Video	
80. Organización Continental Latinoamericana de Estudiantes	
81. Organización de Pioneros José Martí	
82. Organización de Solidaridad con los Pueblos de África, Asia y América Latina	
83. Sindicato Agropecuario	
84. Sindicato de Educación	
85. Sindicato de la Cultura	
86. Sindicato de la Salud	
87. Sociedad Abakua	
88. Sociedad Cubana de Anatomía Patológica	
89. Sociedad Cubana de Angeología	
90. Sociedad Cubana de Antropología Biológica	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
91. Sociedad Cubana de Bioingeniería	
92. Sociedad Cubana de Ciencias Farmacéuticas	
93. Sociedad Cubana de Cirugía	
94. Sociedad Cubana de Cirugía Plástica	
95. Sociedad Cubana de Coloproctología	
96. Sociedad Cubana de Dermatología	
97. Sociedad Cubana de Educación en Ciencias de la Salud	
98. Sociedad Cubana de Enfermería	
99. Sociedad Cubana de Farmacología	
100. Sociedad Cubana de Física	
101. Sociedad Cubana de Geografía	
102. Sociedad Cubana de Interferón	
103. Sociedad Cubana de Investigaciones Filosóficas	
104. Sociedad Cubana de Higiene y Epidemiología	
105. Sociedad Cubana de la Historia de la Ciencia	
106. Sociedad Cubana de Historia de la Medicina	
107. Sociedad Cubana de las Ciencias del Suelo	
108. Sociedad Cubana de Matemática	
109. Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Familiar	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
110. Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Interna	
111. Sociedad Cubana de Medicina Legal	
112. Sociedad Cubana de Meteorología	
113. Sociedad Cubana de Microbiología y Parasitología	
114. Sociedad Cubana de Obstetricia y Ginecología	
115. Sociedad Cubana de Oncología	
116. Sociedad Cubana de Ortopedia y Traumatología	
117. Sociedad Cubana de Otorrinolaringología	
118. Sociedad Cubana de Patología Clínica	
119. Sociedad Cubana de Pediatría	
120. Sociedad Cubana de Psicología de la Salud	
121. Sociedad Cubana de Psiquiatría	
122. Sociedad Cubana de Química	
123. Sociedad Cubana de Tiro	
124. Sociedad Cubana de Tiro al Blanco	
125. Sociedad Cubana de Trabajadores Sociales de la Salud	
126. Sociedad Cubana de Zoológicos y Acuarios	
127. Sociedad Cubana Multidisciplinaria para el estudio de la Sexualidad	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
128. Sociedad Cubana para la Protección del Medioambiente (Pro-Naturaleza)	
129. Sociedad Cultural "José Martí"	
130. Sociedad de Arquitectura	
131. Sociedad de Geociencia	
132. Sociedad de Información Científico-Técnico	
133. Sociedad de Ingeniería Hidráulica	
134. Sociedad de Ingeniería Mecánica y Eléctrica	
135. Sociedad de Ingeniería Civil	
136. SILAC	
137. Sociedad de Medicina Veterinaria para Casos de Desastres	
138. Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País	
139. Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba	
140. Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba	
141. Unión Árabe de Cuba	
142. Unión de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de Cuba	
143. Unión Francesa de Cuba	
144. Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba	
145. Unión de Historiadores de Cuba	

II FORO DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA CONTRA EL BLOQUEO 14-15 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2004 ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL CUBANA	
146. Sociedad Cubana de Derecho Constitucional y Administrativo	
147. Sociedad Cubana de derecho Internacional	
148. Sociedad Cubana de Derecho Mercantil	
149. Sociedad Cubana de Criadores y Amigos de los Equidos	
150. Sociedad Cubana de Lechería	
151. Sociedad Cubana de Ovinocultores	
152. Sociedad Cubana de Cunicultores y Cuyes	
153. Sociedad Cubana de Caprinocultores	
154. Sociedad Cubana de Búfalos	
155. Sociedad Cubana de Carne y Doble Propósito	
156. Sociedad cubana de Acuacultura	
157. Sociedad Cubana de Vaqueros de Rodeo	
158. Sociedad Cubana de Apicultura	
159. Sociedad Cubana de Producción y Utilización de Pastos	
160. Sociedad Cubana de Avicultura	
161. Sociedad Cubana de Porcino	